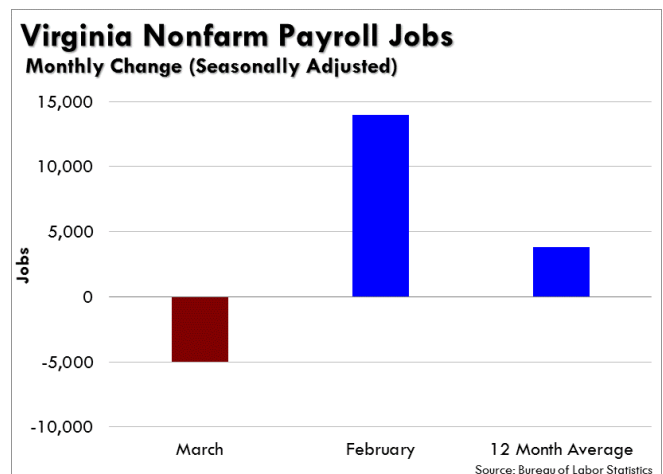
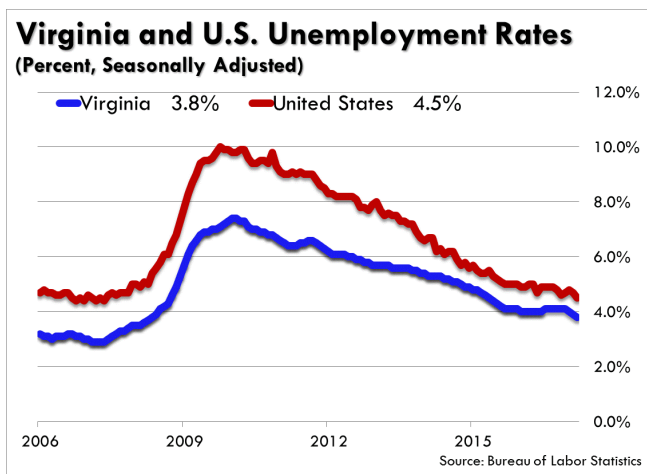


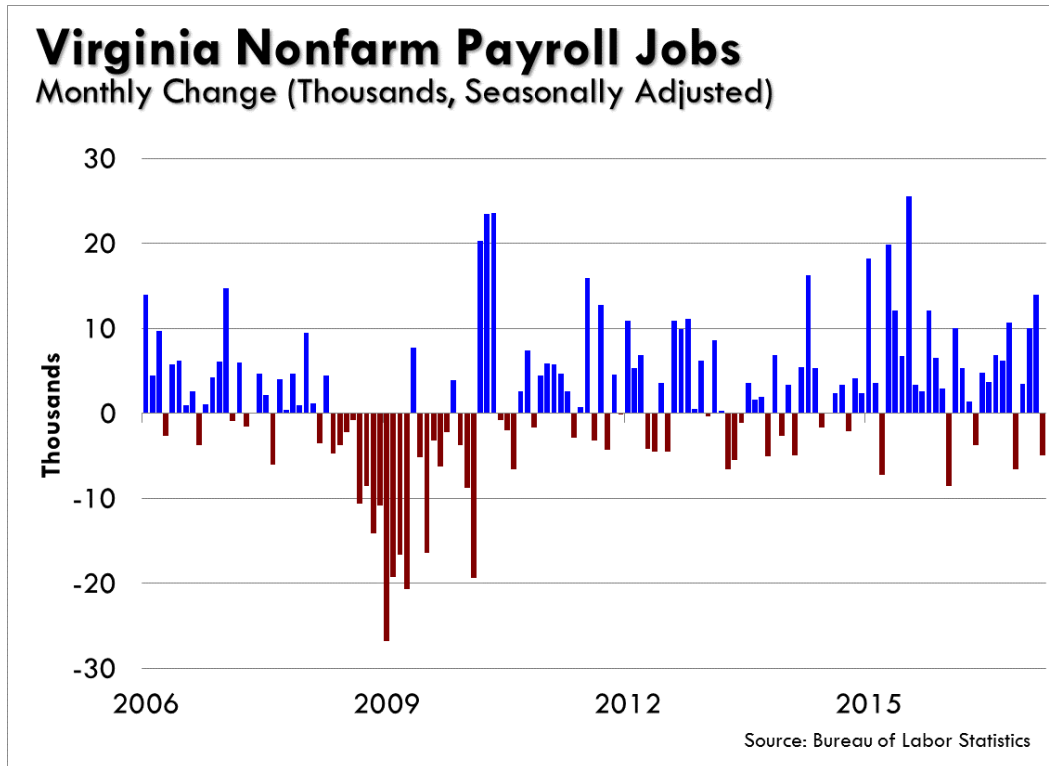


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Virginia lost 5,000 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.8 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Virginia added 45,800 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 4 percent.
- **In March, Virginia's private sector lost 1,100 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 46,200 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Virginians fell by 4,282 in March**, and over the past year 79,825 Virginians found jobs.
- Virginia's **labor force participation rate increased to 65.3 percent** from 65.2 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.7 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Virginia Payroll Employment

Virginia lost 5,000 jobs, or 0.13 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Virginia added 14,000 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Virginia increased by 45,800, or 1.17 percent. Virginia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

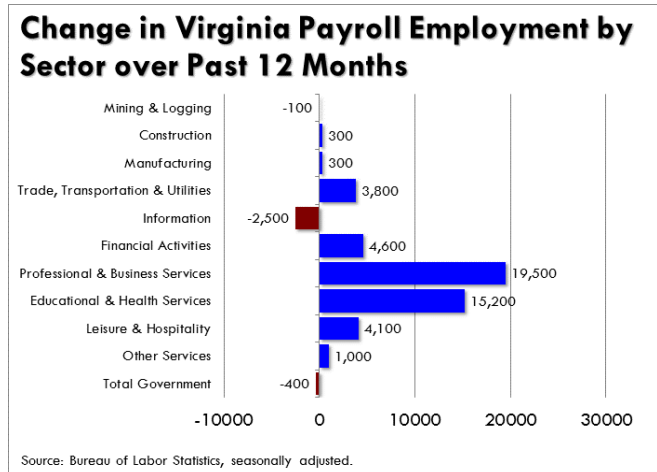
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Virginia ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Virginia's private-sector lost 1,100 jobs, or 0.03 percent. The private-sector in Virginia added 9,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Virginia increased by 46,200, or 1.45 percent. Virginia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Virginia ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+2,900) and Construction (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-5,800) and Total Government (-3,900).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+19,500) and Educational & Health Services (+15,200). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Information (-2,500) and Total Government (-400).



Virginia Labor Force Statistics

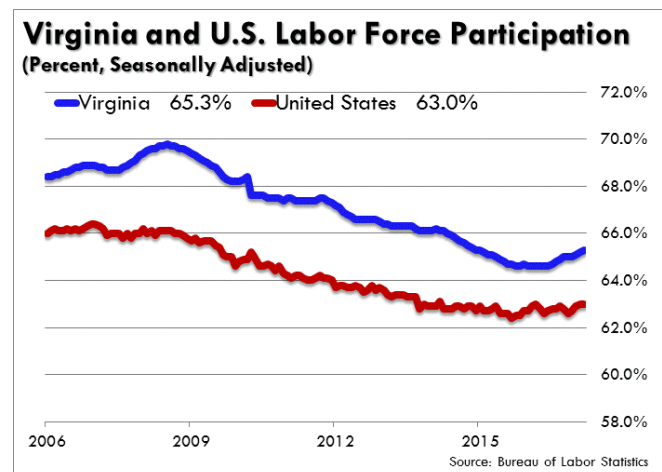
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Virginia rose to 65.3 percent in March from 65.2 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 17 have a higher labor force participation rate than Virginia. The labor force participation rate in Virginia is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia was 69.8 percent in July 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia occurred in May 1992 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.6 percent in June 2016. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Virginia. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 62.8 percent in March from 62.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 16 have higher employment-to-



population ratios than Virginia. The employment-to-population ratio in Virginia is 0.8 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia was 67.1 percent in April 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.2 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.0 percent in June 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in November 1982 when the employment-to-population ratio was 61.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

